

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.     A method of monitoring and controlling power consumption comprising:  
2                 reading power consumption data using an automatic reader;  
3                 collecting data from the reader in a computer memory device;  
4                 creating a forecast of electric power consumption for a predetermined  
5                 period of time using the computer; and  
6                 controlling an amount of power consumption by controlling a device that  
7                 consumes power based on the forecast.
- 1           2.     The method, according to claim 1, wherein said controlling is done  
2                 manually by hand.
- 1           3.     The method, according to claim 1, wherein said controlling is done  
2                 manually using a computer.
- 1           4.     The method, according to claim 1, wherein said controlling is done  
2                 automatically through a computer.
- 1           5.     The method, according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined period of  
2                 time is instantaneous.
- 1           6.     The method, according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined period of  
2                 time is any chronological period of time.
- 1           7.     The method, according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined period of  
2                 time may be any non-chronological period of time.
- 1           8.     A system for monitoring and controlling power consumption comprising:

2 a reader for obtaining power consumption data from an electric utility  
3 service; and

4 a computer system for collecting the data from the reader wherein the  
5 computer system is used to create a forecast of electric power consumption for a  
6 predetermined period of time and wherein a device that consumes electricity is  
7 controlled based on the forecast.

1 9. The method, according to claim 8, wherein said controlling is done  
2 manually using a computer.

1 10. The method, according to claim 8, wherein said controlling is done  
2 automatically through a computer.

1 11. The method, according to claim 8, wherein said predetermined period of  
2 time is instantaneous.

1 12. The method, according to claim 8, wherein said predetermined period of  
2 time is any chronological period of time.

1 13. The method, according to claim 8, wherein said predetermined period of  
2 time may be any non-chronological period of time.